## **Lamprey TRC Annual Report November 2005**

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
NH Senate President, Theodore L. Gatsas
Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, W. Douglas Scamman, Jr.
Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Michael P. Nolin
and the State Library

November 1, 2005

by

## Lamprey River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Lamprey River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2005. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, "The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the state library."

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Lamprey TRC at <a href="http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/lamprey.asp?link=meetings&meet=trc">http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/lamprey.asp?link=meetings&meet=trc</a>. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings.

The Technical Review Committee of the Lamprey Instream Flow Pilot Program held its inaugural meeting January 24, 2005 at the NHDES offices. Wayne Ives, Instream Flow Specialist, of the Watershed Management Bureau of NHDES, presented information describing the Instream Flow Program, the committee's duties, and details specific to the Lamprey program. Jim MacCartney was elected as the committee's chair and Carl Paulsen as vice-chair. Ron Rayner and Ralph Abele volunteered to join the Selection Committee to assist the Department in selecting a consulting firm to complete the Protected Instream Flow (PISF) Study and the Water Management Plan (WMP).

The Selection Committee is made up of two TRC members, two WMPAAC members and two NHDES members. This committee's task was to determine the most qualified consulting group with the best proposal for determining the protected flows and creating a water management plan for the Lamprey Designated River. The two TRC members, Ron Rayner and Ralph Abele, joined Kevin Webb and Bob Levesque of the Lamprey Water Management Area Advisory Committee, and Wayne Ives and Paul Currier of NHDES to form the Selection Committee. The committee first met at NHDES on February 7, 2005. The committee evaluated Qualifications and & Experience statements from seven consulting firms and shortlisted four firms to receive Requests for Proposals (RFP).

The TRC held its second meeting March 14, 2005, to which the members of the WMPAAC were invited, to hear a presentation by Ralph Abele (EPA) on the various methods available for determining protected flow levels. This information was presented to prepare the members for review of the proposals due March 10, 2005. On March 11, the proposals were made available for review to committee members by internet. The TRC and WMPAAC were invited to review the proposals and present their comments at a meeting of the Selection Committee at NHDES offices on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The comments were incorporated in the Selection Committee's review of proposals and interview of the contractors. The Selection Committee reviewed the consultants' proposals and then met March 28, 2005 to interview the consultants. The team made up of Normandeau Associates, Inc. (NAI), University of NH, and University of Massachusetts was selected unanimously by the Committee. The team is lead by NAI.

NAI has completed the draft list of protected entities also known as Instream Protected Uses, Outstanding Characteristics, and Resources or IPUOCRs, (deliverable for Task 1) and conducted an on-stream survey (Task 3). The draft IPUOCR list was made available for comment via email to the TRC on September 30, 2005. TRC members were invited to attend the WMPAAC meeting held October 7 to review this document before making it final on October 27, 2005. NAI is completing the next report draft describing the assessment methods to be used to determine protected flows for the IPUOCRs (Task 4).

UNH has a Lamprey Instream Flow Project website at http://www.unh.edu/erg/lamprey/.

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